DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 289 200 CS 505 824

AUTHOR Gray, Philip A.
TITLE Assessment of Basic Oral Communication Skills: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography.
INSTITUTION ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills, Urbana, Ill.; Speech Communication Association, Annandale, Va.
SPONS AGENCY Office of Educational Research and Improvement (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE May 84
NOTE 5p.; Small print.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Information Analyses - ERIC Information Analysis Products (071)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Ability Identification; Basic Skills; Communication Skills; *Educational Assessment; Elementary Secondary Education; Interpersonal Communication; *Listening Skills; *Minimum Competency Testing; Skill Development; *Speech Skills; Student Evaluation

ABSTRACT

The 40 references in this annotated bibliography are intended for educators concerned with assessment of basic speaking and listening skills, especially in the context of minimal competency testing and basic skill improvement programs. The materials cited do the following: (1) address broad assessment issues; (2) review a variety of test instruments; (3) report assessment practices throughout the states; and (4) focus specifically on the assessment of speaking, listening, and functional communication skills. (JC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☒ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

ED289200

ASSESSMENT OF BASIC ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

A Selected, Annotated Bibliography

Prepared by

Philip A. Gray
Department of Communication Studies
Northern Illinois University
May 1984

Distributed by the Speech Communication Module-ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills, 5105 Backlick Road, Annandale, VA 22003. This bibliography may be reproduced for free distribution without permission of the Speech Communication Module. Ordering information for ERIC matericals (ED and EJ numbers) can be found on page 4 of this bibliography.

This bibliography includes materials for educators who are concerned with assessment of basic speaking and listening skills, especially in the context of minimal competency testing and basic skills improvement programs. The bibliography is divided into two sections. The first includes materials that address broad assessment issues, review a variety of test instruments, and report assessment practices throughout the states. The second contains sources that focus specifically on the assessment of speaking, listening, and functional communication skills.

GENERAL SOURCES ON ASSESSMENT ISSUES AND INSTRUMENTS

Achievement testing and basic skills. Procedings of the national conference on achievement testing and basic skills. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and National Institute of Education, 1979. This report covers various basic skills issues--use of test results, implications of tests for poor and minority children, cultural considerations, and the Federal role in testing.

Bloom, B. S.; Hastings, J. T.; and Maddaus, G. F. Handbook on formative and summative evaluation of student learning. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1971. Distinguishes between formative and summative evaluation with chapters on evaluating language development in preschool education and elementary school language arts. Each chapter presents objectives, illustrates testing procedures, and discusses commercial tests.

Bostrom, R., (Ed.). Competence in communication, an interdisciplinary perspective. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 1984. Book examines crosscultural, interpersonal, organizational, developmental, and mass communication perspectives on competence in communication.

Buros Institute of Mental Measurements, James V. Mitchell, Jr., (Ed.). Tests in print III. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1983. A standard reference for information on published tests. Lists an index to tests, test reviews, and literature on specific tests.

Clark, J. P., and Thomson, S. D. Competency tests and graduation requirements. Reston, VA: National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1976. (ERIC ED 126 160; available in microfiche from EDRS.). Provides a background to the competency testing movement and reports on nationwide initiatives in the use of applied performance tests. Reviews a variety of competency tests that measure skills achievement. The revised edition by James W. Keefe and Nancy De Leonibus is available in microfiche from EDRS (ERIC ED 194 573); paper copy can be purchased from NASSP, 1904 Association Dr., Reston, VA 22091.

Dickson, W. P., (Ed.) Children's oral communication skills. New York, Academic Press, 1981. Chapters on a process-structuralist view of communication competency, cognitive and comprehension monitoring, skill acquisition, etc.

Fagan, W.; Cooper, C.; and Jensen, J. Measures for research and evaluation in the English language arts. Urbana, Il: National Council of Teachers of English, 1975. (ERIC ED 099 835). Reviews over 10 unpublished instruments for assessing language development, listening, and standard English as a second language, as well as literature, reading, teacher competency, and miscellaneous language skills.

CS 505 824

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fisher, B. A., (Ed.). Western journal of speech communication. Western Speech Communication Association (Lynn Wells, Executive Secretary, Saddleback Community College). (Vol. 48, No. 2, Spring 1984). A special issue on children's communicative development including conversational competency, acquiring sociolinguistic knowledge, differences between comprehension and production of language, inpact of TV advertising, role-taking, and development from birth. (Indexed in ERIC CIJE.).

Haney, W. Standards for tests and test use. Staff Circular No. 3. Cambridge, MA: Huron Institute, 1978. Reviews six sets of standards concerning standardized tests (including those of APA and AERA) and discusses the impact of these standards on testing practices.

Haney, W. Testing the tests. Staff Circular No. 1. Cambridge, MA: Huron Institute, 1978. Reviews past efforts to rate the quality of standardized tests. Discusses implications as well as problems in assessment of test quality.

Johnson, O. G. Tests and measurements in child development: handbook II. (Vols. 1 and 2). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1976. Describes 900 unpublished tests and measures of child development (birth through age 18). The measures are classified in 18 major categories.

Perspectives on communication competency. Three articles offering differing perspectives on competency. See James C. McCroskey, "Communication Competence and performance: a research and pedagogical perspective," Communication education, (Vol. 31, No. 1, Jan. 1982, pp 1-7). McCroskey argues the need to separate concepts of communication competency and communication performance. (ERIC ED 203 401). Gerald M. Phillips, "A competent view of 'competence'." Communication education, (Vol. 33, No. 1, Jan. 1984, pp 25-36). Phillips addresses the preoccupation with definitions and measurement of competence. He suggests that the locus of interest should be shifted to techniques for training performance improvement. And, Brian H. Spitzberg, "Communication competence as knowledge, skill, and impression," Communication education, (Vol. 32, No. 3, July 1983, pp 323-329). This essay proposes that competence be viewed as a function of knowledge, skill, and motivation. Compares this perspective with McCroskey's. (Last two articles indexed in ERIC CIJE.).

Perspectives on the assessment of speaking and listening skills for the 1980's. AERA Symposium. Published by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 1981. (ERIC ED 210 748; also available from SCA).

Petty, W. T. and Fielding, L. Developing children's language. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1980. Defines language and language arts, surveys language learning, and describes the development of language instruction. Several chapters on listening and oral language and expression.

Rubin, R. B., "Communication assessment instruments and procedures in higher education," Communication education, (Vol. 33, No. 2, April 1984, pp 178-180). A summary report by the SCA Committee on Assessment and Testing describing the range and degree of assessment occurring in colleges and universities. (Indexed in ERIC CIJE.).

Scott, L. (Ed.). Summary of the fall 1978 conference of the national consortium on testing. Cambridge, MA: Huron Institute, 1978. Describes current state of criterion-referenced testing, alternative approaches to assessment and reviews of major standardized test series.

Simon, A., and Boyer, E. G. Mirrors for behavior III: An anthology of observation instruments. Wyncote, PA: Communication Materials Center, 1974. A review of observation systems that measure various dimensions of the communication process in the classroom.

State practices in speaking and listening assessment. Speech Communication Association (No 423). Article and backup information on state positions for K-12 programs in speech.

Wiemann, J. M., and Backlund, P. M., "Current theory and research in communicative competence," Review of Educational research, (Vol. XV, Spring 1980, pp 185-199). Article focuses on the identification of competency as an educational objective. Includes a review of relevant research. (Also see ERIC ED 155 763.).

SOURCES ON ASSESSMENT OF SPEAKING, LISTENING, AND FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Allen, R. R., and Brown, K. L. (Eds.). Developing communication competence in children. Skokie, IL: National Textbook Co., 1976. (May be purchased from SCA). Literature review, behavioral study of children's communication competencies, and an assessment of teachers' attitudes regarding goals of speech communication instruction. Also contains a framework and objectives for functional communication instruction.

Allen, R. R., and Wood, B. S., "Beyond reading and writing in communication competence," Communication education, (Vol. 27, Nov. 1978, pp 286-292). Argues for developing competencies in an array of communication situations involving speaking and listening as well as reading and writing. Five functions of communication are offered as the communication focus of a language arts program. (ERIC EJ 201 016).

Backlund, P.; Gurry, J.; Brown, K.; and Jandt, F., "Evaluating speaking and listening skills assessment instruments: Which one is best for you?" Language arts, (Vol. 57, No. 6, Sept. 1980, pp 621-627). Focuses on need for assessment of skills that accounts for differences between those unique to oral language and those unique to written language. (ERIC EJ 233 979).

Backlund, P.; Gurry, J.; Brown K.; and Jandt, F., "Recommendations for assessing speaking and listening skills," Communication education, (Vol. 31, No. 1, Jan. 1982, pp 9-18). Authors continue to clarify and develop criteria introduced in the 1980 article. (ERIC EJ 257 625).

Bassett, R. E.; Whittington, N.; and Staton-Spicer, A., "The basics in speaking and listening for high school graduates: What should be assessed?" Communication education, (Vol. 27, Nov. 1978, pp 293-303). Recommends twenty speaking and listening competencies for high school graduates. Illustrates how each competency can be applied in occupational, citizenship, and maintenance situations. (ERIC EJ 201 017).

Faires, C. L., "The development of listening tests," (ERIC ED 220 528). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Nov. 1980. Critical of most test instruments for poor construction, sample size, reporting of test item analysis data, and lack of replication.

Illinois State Board of Education, Assessing oral communication skills, Springfield, Il: ISBE, (free from ISBE, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Il, 62777). Booklet suggesting classroom observation techniques for assessing oral communication skills. Uses a checklist approach.

Larson, C. E., "Problems in assessing functional communication," Communication Education, (Vol. 27, Nov. 1978, pp 304-309). Emphasizes that problems in assessing functional communication have their origin in comceptual ambiguity. Contrasts communicative competence with functional effectiveness and proposes the latter as a more appropriate construct for older children and adults. (ERIC EJ 201 018).

Larson, C.; Backlund, P; Redmond, M.; and Barbour, A. Assessing functional communication. Falls Church, VA; Speech Communication Association, 1978. (ERIC ED 153 275; also available from SCA). Part I identifies and describes conceptual and methodological issues involved in evaluating the major components of interpersonal interaction related to functional communication. Part II contains brief reviews of 90 instruments designed to generate information on some aspect of functional communication.

Lederman, L. C., and Ruben, B. D., "Systematic assessment of communication games and simulations: an applied framework," Communication education, (Vol. 33, No. 2, April 1984, pp 152-159). Establishes a framework for the assessment of communication games and simulations. Specifies criteria and provides a model for the selection/design, use, and assessment of activities. (Also indexed in ERIC CIJE).

Lundsteen, S. W. Listening: its impact at all levels on reading and the other language arts. (Rev. ed.). Urbana, Il: National Council of Teachers of English, 1979. (ERIC ED 169 537). A review of research in listening including definitions and evaluation methods. Presents a listening taxonomy and describes commercial, unpublished, and teacher-designed assessment instruments and procedures.

Monge, P. R.; Bachman, S. G.; Dillard, J. P. ; and Eisenberg, E. M., "Communicator competence in the workplace: Model testing and scale development," Communication yearbook 5. (M. Burgoon, ed.) New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Books, 1981, pp 505-527. Assessing competencies on the job.

Rubin, D.; Daly, J.; McCroskey, J.; and Mead, N., "A review and critique of procedures for assessing speaking and listening skills among preschool through grade twelve students," Communication education. (Vol. 31, No. 4, Oct. 1982, pp 285-304). Review and critique of 45 available listening and speaking assessment instruments. Recommendations for further research and development. (ERIC EJ 269 962).

Rubin, R., "Assessing speaking and listening competence at the college level: the communication competency assessment instrument," Communication Education. (Vol. 31, No. 1, Jan. 1982, pp 19-32). Report on the CCAI, a test of basic communication skills for college students. (ERIC EJ 257 626).

Rubin, R. B. Communication competency assessment instrument, 3/4" video stimulus tape (No. 901, $85), testing manual (No. 902, $15), 50 rating sheets (No. 903, $9.50). Also available as a starter package for $198 (1 tape, 3 manuals, 10 pkgs. rating sheets) (No, 900) from SCA. A college level assessment instrument designed to measure 19 speaking and listening competencies.

Rubin, R. B.; Moore, M. R.; Sisco, J.; and Quianthy, R. Oral communication assessment procedures and instrument development in higher education (No. 426) (ERIC ED 236 721; also available from the Speech Communication Association.) Report by the SCA Subcommittee for Oral Communication Assessment in Higher Education.

SCA guidelines for competencies in speaking and listening for high school graduates. Brochure available from the Speech Communication Association. Single copy free with self-addressed stamped envelope. (No. 414).

Stohl, C., "Developing a communicative competence scale, Communication Yearbook 7. (Robert N. Bostrum, ed.) Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 1983, pp 685-716. Study defines communicative competence (focusing on 3-5 year old children), briefly reviews methods of assessment, and provides a report of the empirical investigation.

Trank, D. M., and Steele, J. M., "Measurable effects of a communication skills course: an initial study," Communication education. (Vol. 32, No. 2, April 1983, pp 227-236). Study examined the amount of growth in both writing and speaking competence over a semester of instruction. Utilized the speech and writing portions of ACT's College Outcome Measures Project. (ERIC EJ 277 822).

Wood, B. S. (Ed.). Development of functional communication competencies: pre-K - grade 6. and Development of functional communication competencies: grades 7-12. Falls Church, VA: Speech Communication Association, 1977. (ERIC ED 137 858 and 859; also available from SCA.). The first describes the child as a competent communicator and discusses techniques that encourage functional communication competence. The second booklet focuses upon the adolescent and teenager.

Work, W., "ERIC report: testing - who's being tested, by whom, by what means, for what, and how well?" Communication education. (Vol. 216, 1977, pp 338-344). Provides a sample of ERIC documents representative of those in the system focusing on the evaluation of communication instruction programs. (ERIC EJ 173 268).

ED numbers refer to educational documents in Resources in Education (RIE), the ERIC monthly abstract journal. Unless otherwise indicated, documents are available on microfiche in libraries housing ERIC collections, or they can be purchased in microfiche or reproduced paper copy from ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS), Box 190, Arlington, VA 22210. For prices check latest issue of RIE or write to the Speech Communication Module for an EDRS order blank/price form. Several of the ERIC sources can be obtained in published paper book directly from the Speech Communication Association (SCA), 5105 Backlick Road, Suite E, Annandale, VA 22003.

EJ numbers are education journal articles indexed in Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE), the ERIC monthly index. Reprints from these articles are available from University Microfilms International. Current issues of Communication Education can also be purchased from the Speech Communication Association; back issues from the Johnson Co., 355 Chestnut St., Norwood, NJ 07468.